The 168 Books You'll Never Finish Reading

Rank	Title	Author	Year	Country	Original Language	Notable Subjects / Genres
1	The Bible	Various (Traditional: Moses, Apostles, etc.)	N/A (Est. 12th C. BC – 1st C. AD)	Israel/Various	Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek	Biblical Genre, Religion, History
2	Moby Dick	Herman Melville	1851	United States	English	Whaling, Sea Story, Adventure Fiction
3	War and Peace	Leo Tolstoy	1869	Russia	Russian/French	Napoleonic Wars, Historical Novel, Philosophical Fiction
4	Ulysses	James Joyce	1922	Ireland	English	Ireland, Stream of Consciousness, Literary Novel
5	The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	c. 1387	England	Middle English	Pilgrimage, Anthology, Storytelling
6	Gone with the Wind	Margaret Mitchell	1936	United States	English	American Civil War, Historical Fiction, Romance Novel
7	A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	1859	United Kingdom	English	French Revolution, Historical Novel, Social Criticism
8	Anna Karenina	Leo Tolstoy	1878	Russia	Russian	Adultery, Literary Realism, Novel
9	Wuthering Heights	Emily Brontë	1847	United Kingdom	English	Unrequited Love, Gothic Fiction, Novel
10	Atlas Shrugged	Ayn Rand	1957	United States	English	Dystopia, Speculative Fiction, Philosophical Fiction
11	The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	1939	United States	English	Great Depression, Dust Bowl, Novel
12	The Scarlet Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	1850	United States	English	Romanticism, Fiction, Novel
13	Les Misérables	Victor Hugo	1862	France	French	Convict, Historical Fiction, Epic
14	The Red Badge of Courage	Stephen Crane	1895	United States	English	American Civil War, Coming of Age, Fiction
15	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Brontë	1847	United Kingdom	English	Bildungsroman, Gothic Fiction, Romance Novel
16	Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoevsky	1866	Russia	Russian	Murder, Crime Fiction, Philosophical Fiction
17	Oxford English Dictionary (OED)	Various (First Editor: James Murray)	1884	United Kingdom	English	Non-fiction, Reference, Dictionary
18	The Iliad	Homer	c. 8th C. BC	Ancient Greece	Ancient Greek	Trojan War, Poetry, Epic Poetry
19	Don Quixote	Miguel de Cervantes	1605 (Part 1)	Spain	Spanish	Picaresque Novel, Satire, Parody
20	Walden	Henry David Thoreau	1854	United States	English	Philosophy, Nature, Non-fiction
21	The Good Earth	Pearl S. Buck	1931	United States	English	Historical Fiction, Family, Literary
22	One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel García Márquez	1967	Colombia	Spanish	Magical Realism, Literary Novel
23	A Suitable Boy	Vikram Seth	1993	India	English	Literary Novel, India
24	Catch-22	Joseph Heller	1961	United States	English	War Novel, Black Comedy, Satire
25	Uncle Tom's Cabin	Harriet Beecher Stowe	1852	United States	English	Slavery, Novel
26	The Silmarillion	J.R.R. Tolkien	1977	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Speculative Fiction
27	The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People	Stephen Covey	1989	United States	English	Self-help, Non-fiction
28	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	1813	United Kingdom	English	Romance Novel, Novel of Manners, Satire
29	King Lear	William Shakespeare	c. 1606	England	English	Tragedy, Monarch
30	The Last of the Mohicans	James Fenimore Cooper	1826	United States	English	Historical Novel, Adventure
31	The Lord of the Rings	J.R.R. Tolkien	1954	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Adventure Fiction, Epic
32	The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo	Stieg Larsson	2005	Sweden	Swedish	Crime Fiction, Mystery, Thriller
33	Dracula	Bram Stoker	1897	Ireland	English	Vampire, Horror, Epistolary Novel
34	The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway	1926	United States	English	Literary Fiction, Roman à clef
35	David Copperfield	Charles Dickens	1850	United Kingdom	English	Coming of Age, Novel, Künstlerroman
36	Roots: The Saga of an American Family	Alex Haley	1976	United States	English	Autobiography, Historical Novel, Slavery
37	Twilight	Stephenie Meyer	2005	United States	English	Young Adult, Romance Novel, Fantasy
38	Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	1891	United Kingdom	English	Tragedy, Novel
39	Lord of the Flies	William Golding	1954	United Kingdom	English	Allegory, Dystopia, Young Adult Literature
40	Exodus (Novel)	Leon Uris	1958	United States	English	Historical Fiction, Classics
41	Paradise Lost	John Milton	1667	England	English	Epic Poetry, Religion, Fall of Man
42	The Count of Monte Cristo	Alexandre Dumas	1844	France	French	Revenge, Historical Novel, Adventure Fiction
43	Water for Elephants	Sara Gruen	2006	United States	English	Historical Novel, Romance Novel
44	Animal Farm	George Orwell	1945	United Kingdom	English	Satire, Political Fiction, Dystopia
45	Watership Down	Richard Adams	1972	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Speculative Fiction, Adventure
46	The Fountainhead	Ayn Rand	1943	United States	English	Philosophical Fiction, Individualism

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47	The Three Musketeers	Alexandre Dumas	1844	France	French	Historical Novel, Adventure Fiction
48	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	1890	Ireland	English	Gothic Fiction, Philosophical Fiction
49	The Art of War	Sun Tzu	c. 5th C. BC	China	Classical Chinese	Non-fiction, Military Strategy
50	The Secret History	Donna Tartt	1992	United States	English	Literary Fiction
51	Dune	Frank Herbert	1965	United States	English	Science Fiction, Planetary Romance, Conspiracy Fiction
52	The Complete Sherlock Holmes	Arthur Conan Doyle	1892 (Collection)	United Kingdom	English	Detective Fiction, Short Story
53	Leaves of Grass	Walt Whitman	1855	United States	English	Poetry, Classics
54	The Name of the Rose	Umberto Eco	1980	Italy	Italian	Historical Whodunnit, Mystery, Historical Fiction
55	The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	1906	United States	English	Political Fiction, Social Criticism
56	The Brothers Karamazov	Fyodor Dostoevsky	1880	Russia	Russian	Philosophical Fiction, Suspense, Novel
57	The Pillars of the Earth	Ken Follett	1989	United Kingdom	English	Historical Novel, Great Britain
58	Life of Pi	Yann Martel	2001	Canada	English	Adventure Fiction, Philosophical Novel
59	The Bell Jar	Sylvia Plath	1963	United States	English	Autobiographical Novel, Literary Novel, Feminism
60	A Brief History of Time	Stephen Hawking	1988	United Kingdom	English	Popular Science, Cosmology, Non-fiction
61	Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad	1899	United Kingdom	English	Novella, Imperialism, Literary
62	Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance	Robert M. Pirsig	1974	United States	English	Philosophy, Non-fiction, Autobiography
63	The Sound and the Fury	William Faulkner	1929	United States	English	Southern Gothic, Literary Fiction
64	The Bonfire of the Vanities	Tom Wolfe	1987	United States	English	Social Satire, Literary Fiction
65	Beloved	Toni Morrison	1987	United States	English	Historical Fiction, Slavery, Speculative Fiction
66	The Federalist Papers	Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay	1788	United States	English	Non-fiction, Political Science, Anthology
67	The Big Sleep	Raymond Chandler	1939	United States	English	Mystery, Crime Fiction
68	Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	1953	United States	English	Science Fiction, Dystopia, Speculative Fiction
69	Fifty Shades of Grey	E. L. James	2011	United Kingdom	English	Erotic Romance
70	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	J.K. Rowling	1997	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Young Adult, Adventure
71	Mein Kampf	Adolf Hitler	1925	Germany	German	Political Philosophy, Autobiography
72	A Game of Thrones (A Song of Ice and Fire Book 1)	George R. R. Martin	1996	United States	English	Epic Fantasy, Speculative Fiction
73	The Pilgrim's Progress	John Bunyan	1678	England	English	Allegory, Speculative Fiction
74	Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell	Susanna Clarke	2004	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Parallel Novel
75	The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	2008	United States	English	Dystopia, Young Adult, Adventure Fiction
76	The Stranger	Albert Camus	1942	France	French	Existentialism, Philosophical Fiction
77	Stranger in a Strange Land	Robert A. Heinlein	1961	United States	English	Science Fiction, Literary
78	P.S. I Love You	Cecelia Ahern	2004	Ireland	English	Romance Novel, Literary
79	Mockingjay	Suzanne Collins	2010	United States	English	Dystopia, Young Adult, Adventure Fiction
80	The Da Vinci Code	Dan Brown	2003	United States	English	Thriller, Mystery
81	The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials Book 1)	Philip Pullman	1995	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Young Adult
82	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith	1943	United States	English	Literary Fiction, Coming of Age
83	The Republic	Plato	c. 375 BC	Ancient Greece	Greek	Philosophy, Ethics, Political Theory
84	The Guns of August	Barbara W. Tuchman	1962	United States	English	History, Military History, Non-fiction
85	Lost Horizon	James Hilton	1933	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy, Adventure, Literary
86	Sycamore Row	John Grisham	2013	United States	English	Legal Thriller
87	Divergent	Veronica Roth	2011	United States	English	Dystopia, Young Adult, Science Fiction
88	The Giver	Lois Lowry	1993	United States	English	Dystopia, Children's Literature, Social Science
89	The Road	Cormac McCarthy	2006	United States	English	Apocalyptic Fiction, Literary Fiction, Science Fiction
90	Infinite Jest	David Foster Wallace	1996	United States	English	Satire, Postmodernism, Tragicomedy
91	Blood Meridian	Cormac McCarthy	1985	United States	English	Western, Historical Fiction, Philosophical Novel
92	Faust, Part One	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	1808	Germany	German	Play, Tragedy
93	The Odyssey	Homer	c. 8th C. BC	Ancient Greece	Ancient Greek	Epic Poetry, Adventure

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94	The Divine Comedy	Dante Alighieri	c. 1320	Italy	Italian	Epic Poem, Theology, Allegory
95	The Complete Works of Shakespeare	William Shakespeare	N/A (Collected Works)	England	English	Drama, Tragedy, Comedy
96	The Mists of Avalon	Marion Zimmer Bradley	1982	United States	English	Fantasy, Historical Fiction
97	Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff	Christopher Moore	2002	United States	English	Black Comedy, Satire, Fantasy
98	Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf	1925	United Kingdom	English	Stream of Consciousness, Literary Novel
99	Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	1838	United Kingdom	English	Social Criticism, Fiction, Novel
100	The Plague	Albert Camus	1947	France	French	Existentialism, Philosophical Fiction, Novel
101	The Gulag Archipelago	Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn	1973	Russia	Russian	Non-fiction, History, Political
102	The Idiot	Fyodor Dostoevsky	1869	Russia	Russian	Novel, Philosophical Fiction
103	Alexander Hamilton (Biography)	Ron Chernow	2004	United States	English	Biography, History
104	Gravity's Rainbow	Thomas Pynchon	1973	United States	English	Postmodernism, Historical Novel, Science Fiction
105	Dreams from My Father	Barack Obama	1995	United States	English	Biography, Autobiography, Memoir
106	Interview with the Vampire	Anne Rice	1976	United States	English	Horror, Historical Novel, Vampire
107	Foucault's Pendulum	Umberto Eco	1988	Italy	Italian	Speculative Fiction, Conspiracy Fiction
108	The Corrections	Jonathan Franzen	2001	United States	English	Literary Fiction, Family
109	Native Son	Richard Wright	1940	United States	English	Social Realism, Novel
110	To the Lighthouse	Virginia Woolf	1927	United Kingdom	English	Literary Novel, Stream of Consciousness
111	Naked Lunch	William S. Burroughs	1959	United States	English	Postmodern Literature, Novel
112	The Tin Drum	Günter Grass	1959	Germany	German	Novel, Historical Fiction
113	In Search of Lost Time	Marcel Proust	1913 (First Volume)	France	French	Autobiographical Novel, Memory
114	The War of the Worlds	H.G. Wells	1898	United Kingdom	English	Science Fiction, Invasion Literature
115	The Story of Edgar Sawtelle	David Wroblewski	2008	United States	English	Literary Fiction
116	Light in August	William Faulkner	1932	United States	English	Southern Gothic, Literary Fiction
117	A Confederacy of Dunces	John Kennedy Toole	1980	United States	English	Absurdist Fiction, Literary Novel
118	Starship Troopers	Robert A. Heinlein	1959	United States	English	Military Science Fiction, Speculative Fiction
119	The Magic Mountain	Thomas Mann	1924	Germany	German/French	Bildungsroman, Philosophical Novel
120	House of Leaves	Mark Z. Danielewski	2000	United States	English	Ergodic Literature, Horror, Speculative Fiction
121	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	1981	United Kingdom	English	Magical Realism, Historical Fiction
122	Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid	Douglas Hofstadter	1979	United States	English	Non-fiction, Mathematics, Philosophy
123	The Charterhouse of Parma	Stendhal	1839	France	French	Literary Fiction, Historical Novel
124	Thus Spoke Zarathustra	Friedrich Nietzsche	1883	Germany	German	Philosophy, Philosophical Fiction, Prose Poetry
125	A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius	Dave Eggers	2000	United States	English	Memoir, Literary Non-fiction
126	Cryptonomicon	Neal Stephenson	1999	United States	English	Historical Fiction, Technothriller
127	A Room with a View	E.M. Forster	1908	United Kingdom	English	Novel of Manners, Romance Novel
128	The Tale of Genji	Murasaki Shikibu	c. 1020	Japan	Japanese	Classical Japanese Literature
129	The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	1985	Canada	English	Dystopia, Speculative Fiction, Feminist Novel
130	The Trial	Franz Kafka	1925	Czechoslovakia (Posthumous)	German	Absurdist Fiction, Dystopia, Novel
131	The Second Sex	Simone de Beauvoir	1949	France	French	Philosophy, Sociology, Non-fiction
132	The Story of O	Pauline Réage	1954	France	French	Erotic Literature, BDSM
133	The Count of Monte Cristo (Duplicate)	Alexandre Dumas	1844	France	French	Revenge, Adventure Fiction
134	Being and Nothingness	Jean-Paul Sartre	1943	France	French	Philosophy, Existentialism
135	Nostromo	Joseph Conrad	1904	United Kingdom	English	Novel, Literary Fiction
136	Dream of the Red Chamber	Cao Xueqin	c. 1791 (Posthumous)	China	Classical Chinese	Chinese Classical Literature
137	Mistborn: The Final Empire	Brandon Sanderson	2006	United States	English	Fantasy, High Fantasy
138	Go Down, Moses	William Faulkner	1942	United States	English	Literary Fiction, Short Stories
139	Absalom, Absalom!	William Faulkner	1936	United States	English	Southern Gothic, Literary Fiction
140	The Name of the Wind	Patrick Rothfuss	2007	United States	English	Fantasy, Epic Fantasy

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141	The Eye of the World (Wheel of Time, Book 1)	Robert Jordan	1990	United States	English	Epic Fantasy, Speculative Fiction
142	Critique of Pure Reason	Immanuel Kant	1781	Prussia (Germany)	German	Philosophy, Epistemology, Logic
143	The Decameron	Giovanni Boccaccio	c. 1353	Italy	Italian	Storytelling, Literary Fiction
144	Gormenghast (Titus Groan)	Mervyn Peake	1946	United Kingdom	English	Fantasy of Manners, Gothic Fiction
145	A Course in Miracles	Helen Schucman	1976	United States	English	Spirituality, Religious Text
146	Snow Crash	Neal Stephenson	1992	United States	English	Science Fiction, Technothriller, Postmodernism
147	Amusing Ourselves to Death	Neil Postman	1985	United States	English	Cultural Criticism, Non-fiction
148	Lonesome Dove	Larry McMurtry	1985	United States	English	Western, Historical Novel
149	Clarissa	Samuel Richardson	1748	United Kingdom	English	Epistolary Novel, Romance Novel
150	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	1979	United Kingdom	English	Comic Science Fiction, Humour, Science Fiction
151	Sexual Politics	Kate Millett	1970	United States	English	Non-fiction, Feminism
152	A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian	Marina Lewycka	2005	United Kingdom	English	Satire, Novel
153	Joseph and His Brothers	Thomas Mann	1933	Germany	German	Literary Fiction, Biblical Retelling
154	Vanity Fair	William Makepeace Thackeray	1848	United Kingdom	English	Novel of Manners, Social Satire
155	Bhagavad Gita	Vyasa (Traditional)	c. 5th-2nd C. BC	India	Sanskrit	Religious Text, Philosophy, Hinduism
156	The Waves	Virginia Woolf	1931	United Kingdom	English	Modernism, Stream of Consciousness
157	The Maze Runner	James Dashner	2009	United States	English	Dystopia, Young Adult, Romance Novel
158	The Master and Margarita	Mikhail Bulgakov	1967 (Posthumous)	Russia	Russian	Satire, Speculative Fiction, Fantasy
159	Pamela	Samuel Richardson	1740	United Kingdom	English	Epistolary Novel, Georgian Romance
160	The Human Stain	Philip Roth	2000	United States	English	Literary Fiction, Novel
161	The Power of One	Bryce Courtenay	1989	South Africa	English	Literary Fiction, Bildungsroman
162	White Teeth	Zadie Smith	2000	United Kingdom	English	Literary Fiction, Historical Fiction
163	Bel-Ami	Guy de Maupassant	1885	France	French	Literary Fiction, Novel
164	Pnin	Vladimir Nabokov	1957	Russia/United States	English	Literary Fiction, Novel
165	Vampire Academy	Richelle Mead	2007	United States	English	Urban Fantasy, Young Adult
166	Lonesome Dove (Duplicate)	Larry McMurtry	1985	United States	English	Western, Historical Novel
167	The Dispossessed	Ursula K. Le Guin	1974	United States	English	Science Fiction, Utopian Fiction
168	A History of Egypt	Auguste Mariette	1874	France	French	History, Non-fiction